

District of Texas) I was absent for rollcall votes 288 to 309. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted as follows: 288, no; 289, no; 290, no; 291, no; 292, yes; 293, yes; 294, yes; 295, yes; 296, no; 297, yes; 298, yes; 299, yes; 300, yes; 301, yes; 302, yes; 303, yes; 304, yes; 305, yes; 306, no; 307, no; 308, yes; 309, no; 310, no; and 311, no.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act.

No American should be forced to join or pay dues to a labor union just to get or keep a job.

H.R. 59 would free millions of Americans from coercion in the workplace by simply removing the forced union dues provisions of the National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act.

Mr. Speaker, a vote on the National Right to Work Act is long overdue. I urge you to schedule a vote without delay.

PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Child Custody Protection Act. This bill is yet another attack in the ongoing attempt by conservative Members of this House to deny reproductive choice to women.

When faced with a difficult choice, teenage girls should be encouraged to seek the advice and counsel from their elders and not be concerned with criminal consequences.

If passed in its current form, this bill would criminalize the conduct of a grandmother who helps her granddaughter in a time of need. This bill will not lead to better family communication where it does not already exist. This bill is invasive and intrusive and denies a young woman the right to face a difficult choice with safety and dignity.

Furthermore, H.R. 3682 raises important federalism issues. Laws from one State do not follow people to another.

Mr. Speaker, more than 75 percent of young women already involve one or both parents in their decision. When a young woman cannot involve a parent, she should be encouraged to involve a trusted adult without the fear that the adult who accompanies her could face incarceration. One study found that half of all young women who did not involve a parent did involve an adult, including 15 percent who involved a step parent or adult relative. If this bill passes, these individuals could be jailed for helping to obtain a legal medical procedure.

H.R. 3682, if enacted, would put a young woman's life at risk should she be unable to involve a parent or guardian. It will increase

the chance that she will seek an illegal or self-induced abortion or delay the procedure, making it more dangerous.

Instead of increasing the risks involved in abortion, let us support measures to make abortion less necessary by reducing teen pregnancy, promoting adolescent reproductive health education, and expanding access to confidential health services (including family planning).

Let us not turn our backs on young people and criminalize the assistance of a parent or trusted adult. Young women must not be isolated from a supportive parent or trusted adult and must be encouraged to make open, honest and safe choices.

We must protect young women from coercion by strangers, but not from the support of a caring adult. Mr. Speaker, this bill will put the reproductive health of young people at risk and infringe upon an individual's constitutional right to privacy and reproductive choice.

This bill is in need of clarification to differentiate between the act of a caring adult and the act of an individual deserving criminal persecution.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

ADDRESSING THE Y2K CHALLENGE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, by now we are well aware of the Y2K problem that poses a threat to virtually every aspect of our daily existence. My good friend and colleague, Mr. HORN, has done an outstanding job of raising awareness within Congress and every federal agency on the need to address this complex challenge. Indeed, every American is potentially affected by the Y2K problem and educating the public is critical to avoiding major disruptions in our daily lives.

Raising awareness is the key to proposing solutions. To that end, I would like to share with you and submit for the record a very fine article that recently appeared in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The piece, "Crash 2000," was written by Bruce Chapman, president of the Seattle-based Discovery Institute. The Discovery Institute has recently launched a two-year project on the many diverse public-policy issues connected with Y2K.

The Discovery Institute will host a conference on Y2K and related public policy concerns in Washington, DC on September 24. This conference will focus upon specific issues that need to be considered by Congress, the Executive Branch and other levels of government to minimize the effects of the Y2K transition. Well-known technology author George Gilder will moderate the day-long session which will also feature Congressman HORN and some of the best and brightest minds on the Y2K issue.

[From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, June 14, 1998]

FOCUS CRASH 2000

LIFE WITH COMPUTERS AT RISK SHOULD Y2K DISEASE PROVE DEADLY

(By Bruce Chapman)

From airport traffic control to tax refunds, from "just-in-time" package deliveries to time-sensitive hospital equipment; from fire

and police services to defense commands, products and activities we take for granted could slow or stop.

That's the Year 2000 problem scenario, a disquieting possibility that is nagging increasing numbers of public and private leaders.

In a year and a half, as the new millennium opens, the lives of everyone not residing in some Stone Age redoubt will be affected to an unknown extent by a bizarre glitch in many of the world's computers and software products. Even the minimum likely outcome is worrisome.

Take the disruptions of last year's United Parcel Service strike, when hundreds of businesses failed, combine them with the recent service stoppage on 40 million pagers when the Galaxy 4 satellite broke down, and replicate such effects in other sectors of the U.S. economy and around the world—simultaneously.

Other outcomes could be worse. Nobody knows how bad it could be. They do know that "it" will happen on Jan. 1, 2000. A program to stimulate greater public awareness, understanding and action is needed. Yet a communications gap between the culture of the technology industry and that of the political world is slowing the response to the 2000 problem, or "Y2K," as it is coming to be known.

The individualistic people in the technology industry do not naturally make connections between their world and the realm of everyday public life. They tend to fear the government when they do not scorn it. People in the public sector often have difficulty comprehending the economic and social impacts of technology. To them, tech is just another industry to be taxed, regulated and litigated. But at the start of the new century, a programming foible of years gone by—compounded by repetition—threatens to make obvious the big, unavoidable connections between technology and public policy.

The problem arose from widespread use of a coding technique to save digital space in computers—shortening the designation of years by eliminating the number denoting the century. The date "1998" is merely rendered "98", for example. Even if some people thought of the troubles that might occur when the year 2000 rolled around, in the fast-changing world of high technology, systems were not expected to last long enough to matter.

The unanticipated result as the year 1999 changes into 2000 is that many computers will read "00" to mean "1900." They will have no way to control the resulting calculations appropriately. Whole systems, including personal computers and mainframes, and software products of various kinds, could malfunction, spit out errors erratically, or simply crash. With them would crash the billions of orders and transactions and industrial processes upon which our lives have come to depend.

At potential risk are: critical infrastructure (water, power, telecommunications, transportation); government services at all levels; banking and finance, here and overseas. The very uncertainty about the prospects for these functions could trigger an anticipatory economic contraction well before 2000.

Huge private and public repair efforts already are under way. Some national banks' Y2K bills are running up to \$600 million. A Securities and Exchange Commission study released last week estimated that the top Fortune 250 corporations alone expect to spend some \$37 billion on the problem.

Many companies' systems are fixed already. But that won't necessarily protect them from failures experienced by their suppliers, or their customers. Nor will it protect